

**Qwest**

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Melissa E. Newman

Vice President-Federal Regulatory

ORIGINAL

December 14, 2000

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED**EX PARTE****RECEIVED****DEC 14 2000****FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 98-147

Dear Ms. Salas:

On Monday, December 11, 2000, Blair Rosenthal, Mary Retka, Anne Cullather, Barry Orrel and the undersigned, representing Qwest¹, met with the Federal Communications Commission staff members William Kehoe III, David Ward, Kimberly Cook, Johanna Mikes and Brent Olson of the Common Carrier Bureau, Michelle Carey of the Policy and Program Planning Division, and Paul Marrangoni of the Office of Engineering and Technology. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss collocation and how the merger between Qwest and U S WEST has resulted in a new company with new prospectives and new opportunities. The attached material was distributed at the meeting and served as the basis of the discussion.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, the original and two copies of this letter and attachment are being filed with your office for inclusion in the public record of this proceeding.

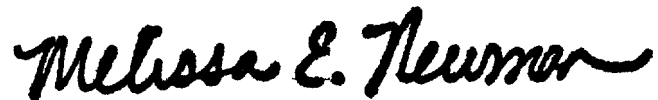
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¹ On June 30, 2000, U S WEST, Inc., the parent and sole shareholder of U S WEST Communications, Inc., merged with and into Qwest Communications International Inc. Further, on July 6, 2000, U S WEST Communications, Inc. changed its name to Qwest Corporation.

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M. Newman
Ex Parte Ltr.
12/14/00

Acknowledgment and date of receipt of this submission are requested. A duplicate of this letter is included for this purpose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa E. Newman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Attachment

cc: William Kehoe III
David Ward
Kimberly Cook
Johanna Mikes
Brent Olson
Michelle Carey
Paul Marrangoni

Collocation

CC Docket 98-147

Qwest Ex Parte

Melissa Newman

Blair Rosenthal

Mary Retka

Anne Cullather

Barry Orrel

December 11, 2000

The Merger between Qwest and U S WEST has resulted in a New Company with New Perspectives and New Opportunities

- Qwest is now an Interexchange Carrier, a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier, a Data Local Exchange Carrier, and an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier.
- Qwest is therefore both a major purchaser and provider of collocation.
- The merger has placed us in the unique position of balancing the CLEC needs for collocation and the ILEC desire to make use of its own private property for its own purposes.
- Qwest's Comments in CC 98-147 reflect this new perspective.

CLECs have Acknowledged Qwest's New Perspective

- Qwest's positions have been cited favorably in CLEC Reply Comments:
 - “For the most part, the ILECs appear determined to ignore their obligation to offer physical collocation on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms and conditions. Qwest is the exception, and Allegiance applauds Qwest's courage in speaking out.”
Reply Comments of Allegiance Telecom, Inc., page 11.
 - “Significantly, one of the major incumbent LECs, Qwest, essentially agrees with the position advocated by the Joint Commenters.”
Joint Reply Comments of Arbros Communications, Inc., Association for Local Telecommunications Services, Competitive Telecommunications Association, E.Spire Communications, Inc., Fairpoint Communications Solutions, Intermedia Communications Inc., KMS Telecom Inc., Newsouth Communications Inc., and Pathnet, page 5
 - “Indeed, even one of the ILECs - Qwest - recognized that the collocation regulations the Commission ordered in the Advanced Services Order are necessary for vibrant local competition to develop.”
Reply Comments of Focal Communications Corporation, page 2

CLECs have Acknowledged Qwest's New Perspective (cont'd)

- “Focal also notes in its analysis that one ILEC, Qwest, sharply differed from the other ILECs in this proceeding. Qwest's break from the ranks further illustrates the self-serving and anticompetitive bent of the other ILEC comments.”

Reply Comments of Focal Communications Corporation, page 7

- “Moreover, the Commission should note that Qwest disagrees with the other ILECs with regard to the collocation of multifunctional equipment.”

Reply Comments of Focal Communications Corporation, page 16

- “Because Rhythms believes the Commission should require carrier-to-carrier cross-connects under the Telecommunications Act, Qwest is correct that all incumbents should allow carriers to cross-connect with other competitive carriers in the ILECs' central offices.”

Reply comments of Rhythms NetConnections, page 15

Redefining “Necessary”

- Equipment is “necessary” for interconnection or access to unbundled network elements when:
 - Equipment is actually used for one or both of those purposes, and
 - Collocation is necessary for the equipment to be used in a competitively meaningful fashion.
- In other words, the “necessary” part of the equation applies to the collocation of the equipment, not just to the equipment itself.

Collocation Products and Services Reflect Qwest's New Perspective

- Qwest supports collocating multi-functional equipment.
- Qwest supports CLEC-to-CLEC cross connections.
- Qwest removes obsolete equipment to increase space availability.
- Qwest allows collocation where space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Qwest supports collocation at remote incumbent LEC premises.

Qwest Supports Collocating Multi-functional Equipment

- Qwest believes that significant efficiencies can be obtained in using multi-functional equipment at a collocated site when the primary use of the equipment in question meets the “necessary” test under Section 251(c)(6) of the Act (i.e., the equipment is actually used for interconnection or access to network elements and collocation is necessary for the equipment to be used in a competitively meaningful fashion).
- The following types of equipment have been, and are being collocated in Qwest wire centers: transmission equipment, including multiplexers; ATM switches; DSLAMs; routers and concentrators; frame relay; and Ethernet switches.

Qwest Supports CLEC-to-CLEC Cross Connections

- Qwest believes it is reasonable to allow CLECs the ability to cross-connect with other CLECs when each CLEC has legitimately obtained collocation under the Act (i.e., each CLEC has met the “necessary” standard for interconnection or access to UNEs).
- Qwest has received 11 requests for CLEC-to-CLEC cross connections in 5 states: AZ, MN, ND, OR, WA.
- Qwest has received these orders from 5 different CLECs.
- Qwest has completed 9 of these requests, and 2 more are in process.
- Outside of Qwest’s ILEC region, CLEC-to-CLEC cross connections are critical to Qwestlink’s business plan.

Qwest Supports Removal of Obsolete Equipment

- Qwest has reclaimed space in many of its wire centers to make additional room available for collocation.
- Qwest believes that such reclaimed space should be made available to all providers: collocators and others (including incumbent LEC affiliates) on a first-come, first-served, and non-discriminatory basis.

Qwest Supports Collocation on a Non-Discriminatory Basis

- Qwest allows collocation where space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Moreover, whenever possible, Qwest places all collocation within a shared, open floor environment (rather than in isolated areas).
- The ILEC's responsibilities as the provider of last resort and the provider of common systems in the central office, dictate that it should determine the actual placement of collocation.
- Qwest has successfully completed over 2,000 collocations, and over 2,000 changes to existing collocations.

Qwest Supports Multiple Points of Entry to Central Offices

- Qwest has designated two manholes as points of entry into its central offices wherever technically and operationally feasible.
- The manholes are engineered to be as close as possible to the cable vault, and ensure that adequate conduit capacity exists for the CLECs.
- Qwest pre-provisions fiber cables into which CLECs can splice their fiber cable to ensure timely access by CLECs and minimum disruptions to the PSTN.
- Information regarding access to Central Offices is critical for all CLECs in order to accomplish collocation efficiently.

Qwest Supports Collocation at Remote Incumbent LEC Premises

- Qwest offers several different products to accommodate remote collocation, including structures that house Qwest network facilities on public rights-of-way, and all land owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by Qwest, such as CEVs, huts, cabinets and other remote terminals.
- Qwest believes that remote collocation should provide access to subloops at workable access points.
- Where facilities to accommodate remote collocation do not exist, Qwest also offers access to subloops through its Field Connection Point product.

Summary

- Qwest is a new company with a new and unique perspective in the industry.
- Qwest has sought to establish positions which balance the sometimes competing interests of its CLEC and its ILEC business units.